

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 FBIE-00 DHA-02

NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /024 W
----- 070545

O R 011455Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 777

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS CIUDAD JUAREZ 0273

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: W/W (ARRESTS) POSSIBLE PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE

REF: STATE 214845

1. DURING AUGUST 30 VISIT TO MUNICIPAL PENITENTIARY CIUDAD JUAREZ, CONSULAR OFFICER WAS INFORMED BY AN AMERICAN PRISONER CURRENTLY WORKING WITH PRISON AUTHORITIES AT RECEPTION DESK THAT A LETTER ARRIVED FROM CALIFORNIA APPROXIMATELY A WEEK AGO ADDRESSED TO ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS. THE LETTER, WHICH APPEARED TO BE SIMILAR TO THE LETTER CITED IN MAZATLAN'S 0353, CALLED FOR ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS TO PARTICIPATE IN A HUNGER STRIKE IN ORDER TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON PENDING NEGOTIATIONS FOR PRISONER EXCHANGE. ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN PRISONER, THE LETTER WAS NEVER CIRCULATED AMONG THE AMERICAN PRISONERS BUT AFTER BEING OPENED BY PRISON AUTHORITIES WAS EITHER DESTROYED OR PLACED IN PRISON FILESM HOWEVER, WHEN CONSULAR OFFICER ASKED THE DIRECTOR OF THE PENITENTIARY ABOUT THE LETTER, HE WAS TOLD THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT, NOR HAD HE HEARD ANY RUMORS OF A PROPOSED HUNGER STRIKE AMONG THE AMERICAN PRISONERS.

2. THE CONSULAR OFFICER THEN SPOKE WITH SEVERAL AMERICAN PRISONERS ABOUT THE PROPOSED HUNGER STRIKE. THEY ALLEGED THAT THEY HAD NOT HEARD OF IT. NONE OF THEM PROFESSED ANY
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SYMPATHY WITH THE STIKERS, BELIEVING THAT IT WOULD

ACCOMPLISH NOTHING AND POSSIBLY JEOPARDIZE RATHER THAN ENHANCE ANY CHANCES FOR A PRISONER EXCHANGE.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THE AMERICAN PRISONERS AT THE MUNICIPAL PENITENTIARY IN CIUDAD JUAREZ EITHER SYMPATHIZE WITH OR FEEL INCLINED TO JOIN OTHER AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO IN A GENERAL HUNGER STRIKE. HOWEVER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

4. THE ABOVE INFORMATION RELATES ONLY TO AMERICAN PRISONERS INCARCERATED IN MUNICIPAL PENITENTIARY CIUDAD JUAREZ. WE EXPECT TO VISIT THE CHIHUAHUA STATE PENITENTIARY, WHERE ONLY THREE AMERICANS ARE IMPRISONED, NEXT WEEK AND WILL REPORT OUR FINDINGS ACCORDINGLY.
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